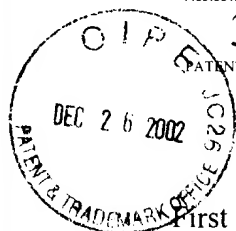




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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent
Case No.: 56286US003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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First Named Inventor: PARTHASARATHY, RANJANI V.

Application No.: 09/841264

Group Art Unit: 1651

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Filed: April 24, 2001

Examiner: David M. Naff

Title: BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE PROCESSING METHODS AND
COMPOSITIONS THAT INCLUDE SURFACTANTSINFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTCommissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on:

December 18, 2002

Date

Michelle L. Murphy

Signed by: Michelle L. Murphy

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed is a completed Form PTO-1449 citing references submitted for consideration by the Examiner. A copy of each cited reference is also enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that each reference has been considered.

Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Under 37 CFR § 1.704(d), I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

A copy of the Search Report from a foreign counterpart application is enclosed.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

December 12, 2002
Date

By: Christopher D. Gram
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Telephone No.: 651-733-1507

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
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